

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The Specification allegedly has minor grammatical errors.

The title stands objected to for not allegedly being descriptive.

The Drawings are objected to because reference signs in the figures are allegedly not mentioned in the present specification.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,845,248 to Nishida et al. in view of the VoiceXML Programming Tutorial ("Voice eXtensible markup Language", VoiceXML Forum © March 2000).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended the title of the invention.

Applicants have amended the Specification to correct minor grammatical errors.

Claims 9 and 10 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are presently pending.

Consideration of IDS

The Office Action indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 10, 2003 has not been considered. Applicants note that Examiner has initialed the PTO-1449 form to indicate that the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 10, 2003 has been considered.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that the Office Action is in error on this point. Applicants

respectfully request the Examiner to confirm that the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 10, 2003 has been considered.

All Grammatical Errors Indicated by the Examiner Have Been Corrected

By way of the foregoing amendment, Applicants have amended all of the grammatical errors in the specification that were indicated by the Examiner except for one. Applicants respectfully submit that phrase “makes ... have” on lines 19-20 of page 2 in the present application is not in error. If the Examiner persists in asserting that this phrase is in error, Applicants respectfully request a more detailed explanation of how the sentence “This makes the data receiving device have a complicated structure.” is grammatically incorrect.

The Title Is Not Objectionable

The title stands objected to as not being descriptive. By way of the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have amended the title to be more descriptive of subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

The Drawings Are Not Objectionable

The Drawings are objected to because reference signs in the figures are allegedly not mentioned in the present specification. Applicants respectfully submit that Steps 302 to 304 in

FIG. 5 are referred to in the present specification at lines 15 to 19 on page 13. Steps 301 and 305 are the same as Steps 21 to 25 shown in FIG. 4. More particularly, FIG. 4 shows the second operation mode. Steps 301 to 305 in FIG. 5 use exactly the same language as steps 21 to 25 in FIG. 4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that drawing corrections to FIG. 5 are not necessary and that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

All Claims Comply with 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,845,248 to Nishida et al. in view of the VoiceXML Programming Tutorial (“Voice eXtensible markup Language”, VoiceXML Forum © March 2000). This rejection is traversed as being based on references that neither describe nor suggest the novel combination of features recited in independent claims 1 and 2. For example, independent claims 1 and 2 recite, amongst other features, “B) comparing the tag recognized in step A with a predetermined tag” and “C) producing a synthesized sound from the character information ... when the two tags match each other in step B.”

With regard to independent claims 1 and 2, the Office Action appears to concede at page 5 that Nishida et al. does not teach the step of “producing a synthesized sound from the character information except for character information reserved by the recognized tag (or producing a synthesized sound from character information reserved by the recognized tag) only when the two tags match each other in step B.” However, the Office Action then applies VoiceXML

Programming Tutorial as allegedly teaching these features at page 10, lines 27-28 of page 25 and at lines 28-29 of page 25. Applicants respectfully submit that Nishida et al. in view of the VoiceXML Programming Tutorial does not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination, comparing a tag with a predetermined tag, as recited in step B of independent claims 1 and 2. Applicants also respectfully submit that these applied references, either separately or combined, do not teach or suggest producing a synthesized sound from character information based upon recognition of a tag, as recited in step C of either independent claim 1 or independent claim 2.

In the present invention, a recognized tag can be used for two purposes. One is to determine words to be displayed, and the other is to determine words to be pronounced. As shown in FIG. 2A, for example, "Traffic Jam Information", "Kawagoe", "R-254", "Jam", "Omiya", "R-16", "Accident", "←Return" and "Go→" are all displayed. Among these words and signs displayed on the screen, only "Kawagoe", "R-254", "Jam", "Omiya", "R-16" and "Accident" are pronounced.

In contrast to the present invention, Nishida et al. is directed toward the recognition of specific encoding to perform specific key-word annunciations from a buffer as a substitution. Applicants respectfully assert that Nishida et al. is deficient in that it does not teach or suggest comparing a tag with a predetermined tag. Nishida et al. is looking at actual words or character information. Further, Nishida et al. is also deficient in that it does not teach or suggest producing a synthesized sound from the character information based on recognition of a tag.

Applicants respectfully assert that the reference of VoiceXML Programming Tutorial

does not cure the deficiencies of Nishida et al., as discussed above. The discussion at page 10, lines 27-28 on page 25 and at lines 28-29 on page 25 in the reference of VoiceXML Programming Tutorial is directed toward how variables can be set for various programming fields of a voice interactive program. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the reference of VoiceXML Programming Tutorial does not teach or suggest comparing a tag with a predetermined tag, much less whether character information reserved by the tag is annunciated based on such a comparison of tags. If the Examiner persists in maintaining this rejection, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point out the tags compared in the reference of VoiceXML Programming Tutorial and, more specifically, producing a synthesized sound from the character information reserved by a tag based on recognition of the tag.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Nishida et al. in view of the VoiceXML Programming Tutorial does not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination, all of the features recited in independent claims 1 and 2. Moreover, dependent claims 3-8 are allowable at least for the same reasons as discussed above, and for the additional features that they recite. For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that that 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-8 be withdrawn.

New Claims 9 and 10 Are Allowable

New dependent claims 9 and 10 are respectively dependent on independent claims 1 and 2. Applicants respectfully submit that the arguments above with regard to independent claims 1

and 2 are also applicable to dependent claims 9 and 10 because of their respective dependence on independent claims 1 and 2. Thus, dependent claims 9 and 10 are allowable at least for the same reasons that independent claims 1 and 2 are allowable, and for the additional features that they recite.

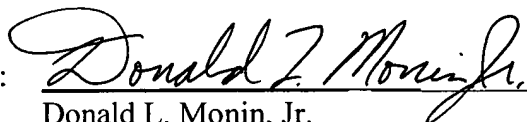
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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